

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SAN CLEMENTE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060154

LIMDIS TOSEC 70

WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY ROGERS IN SAN
CLEMENTE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK BIEN HOA BUDAPEST
CAN THO CANBERRA DANANG JEC PARIS JAKARTA LONDON MANILA MSCOW
NHA TRANG OTTAWA PARIS PHNOM PENH SEOUL TOKYO VIENTIANE WARSAW
WELLINGTON CINCPAC CDROSSAG NKP RTAFB COMUSMACTHAI FROM
SAIGON APR 2

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5405

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE OVERVIEW- APRIL 2, 1973

1. SUMMARY. DURING THE NINTH CEASEFIRE WEEK, THE KEY
DATE OF X PLUS 60 WAS PASSED. RELEASES OF US POW' S WERE
COMPLETED. THE FPJMC WOUND UP ITS AFFAIRS AND WAS
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WITHDRAWN. THE TWO PARTY JMC (TPJMC) WAS FORMALLY
INAUGURATED ON MARCH 29. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MADE ITS

DECISION ON A FUTURE CANDEL ROLE IN THE ICCS-- A FURTHER SIXTY DAY TRIAL PERIOD. OTHERWISE, THE SITUATION REMAINED MUCH THE SAME. HUNGARIAN AND POLISH OBSTRUCTIONISM CONTINUED, BUT THERE WERE INDICATIONS OF A NEW MORE AGGRESSIVE INDEPENDENCE BY THE CANDEL. MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED LIGHT EXCEPT FOR CONTINUING HEAVY PRESSURE ON THE RANGER CAMP AT TONLE CY. (MR 3) AND AT HONG NGU (MR 4). ON MARCH 31, PRESIDENT THIEU LEFT FOR HIS VISIT TO SAN CLEMENTE AND WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

2. DESPITE A LAST MINUTE EFFORT TO WRING ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS FROM THE U. S. ON POW RELEASES, ALL US POW' S, INCLUDING THOSE HELD BY THE PATHET LAO, WERE RELEASED FOR A TOTAL OF 588 US AND 9 THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS(INCLUDING ONE U. S. POW, NOT ON PARIS LISTS, RELEASED BY PRG IN VINH BINH PROVINCE ON 1 APRIL). THOUGH ALL PARIS LIST VIETNAMESE POW' S WERE RELEASED OR ACCOUNTED FOR, THE RELEASE OF AN ADDITIONAL 430 ARVN POW' S ANNOUNCED BY THE PRG WAS HELD UP BY A DESPUTE OVER 210 PRG POW' S WHO WERE ALLOWED BY THE GVN TO CHOOSE " RALLIER " STATUS INSTEAD AND REMAIN BEHIND.

3. A PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE FPJMC CAME TO NOTHING AND THAT BODY TERMINATED ON SCHEDULE. ALL US AND DRV FPJMC PERSONNEL WERE WITHDRAWN DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SMALL CONTINGENT TO THE FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM CHARGED WITH THE RESOLUTION OF MIA/ KIA CASES (FPJMT/ MIA). ALL PRG PERSONNEL COMPLETED A REDEPLOYMENT TO SAIGON WHERE THERE ARE NOW 217 PRG PERSONNEL WITH THE TPJMC. THE FPJMT/ MIA HAS A DRV REPRESENTATION OF 35 PERSONS. THE DRV SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT LIAISON MISSION WITH THE ICCS IN SAIGON BUT THE GVN REFUSED, MAINTAINING THAT THIS FUNCTION COULD ALSO BE PERFORMED BY THE DRV ELEMENT OF THE FPJMT.

4. THE TPJMC HELD ITS FIRST FORMAL MEETING ON MARCH 29. CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS REPORTS, LTG TRAN VAN TRA WILL ACT AS CHIEF OF THE TPJMC DEL, WITH MG HOANG ANH TUAN AS HIS DEPUTY. ON THE GVN SIDE LTG PHAM QUOC THUAN WAS NAMED CHIEF OF THE GVN TPJMC DEL. GEN THUAN MAY BE CONFIDENTIAL

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AN IMPROVEMENT OVER GVN CHIEF DEL TO THE FPJMC, LTG DO QUOC DONG BUT HE WILL STILL BE OUTCLASSED BY TRA. FURTHER, THUAN WILL HAVE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE FACT THAT HE TAKES HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM TWO SUPERIORS WITH SEPARATE CHAINS OF COMMAND.

5. AT THE MARCH 29 MEETING, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE TPJMC PLENARY WOULD MEET TWICE- WEEKLY AND THE SUB- COMMITTEES THREE TIME A WEEK. THE FIRST REGUALR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR

APRIL 3. GEN TRA'S PROPOSAL THAT THE FPJMC AGREEMENT ON PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES BE APPLIED TO THE TPJMC WAS INITIALLY REJECTED BY GEN THUAN, WHO SAID THAT IMPLEMENTING THE CEASEFIRE WAS A MORE URGENT MATTER. IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT WHETHER PRG PERSONNEL WILL DEPLOY TO REGIONAL OR SUB- REGIONAL SITES. GVN RESISTANCE ON PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES COULD DISCOURAGE SUCH DEPLOYMENT BUT A NUMBER OF SENIOR GVN OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO EXPECT EVENTUAL PRG DEPLOYMENT.

6. THE ANXIOUSLY AWAITED CANADIAN DECISION WAS ANNOUNCED AS PROVIDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL PERIOD OF SIXTY DAYS. AT THE END OF THAT PERIOD, CANADA WOULD REVIEW THE SITUATION AGAIN AND DECIDE WHETHER TO SERVE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL IN 30 DAYS. EXTAFF MINISTER SHARP WARNED THAT UNLESS WITHIN 60 DAYS THERE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION OR DISTINCT PROGRESS TOWARD A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CANADA WILL SERVE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL.

7. IN THE MEANTIME HUNGARIAN AND POLISH OBSTRUCTIONISM CONTINUED UNABATED BUT THERE ARE SIGNS THAT THE CANDEL IS ADOPTING A NEW MORE AGGRESSIVELY INDEPENDENT APPROACH, PERHAPS PARTLY TO BUILD THE CANDEL RECORD SHOULD A DECISION TO PULL OUT EVENTUALLY BE MADE. THE CANDELS, AT LEAST IN SOME REGIONS, PLAN TO GO AHEAD WITH ONE- PARTY INVESTIGATIONS IF OTHER DELS WILL NOT PARTICIPATE. WHEREVER THE EVIDENCE IS CONCLUSIVE, THEY WILL ASSIGN BLAME TO THE GVN OR PRG AND THEY STATE THEY WILL NO LONGER COMPROMISE ON LEGITIMATE POINTS TO ACHIEVE UNANIMITY.

8. THE ICCS POINT OF ENTRY TEAMS CONTINUE STALLED FOR LACK OF ANY PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE FROM THE ICCS PLENARY. THE ICCS PLENARY TRANSMITTED A RECORD NUMBER OF REPORTS TO THE
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FPJMC THIS WEEK BUT ALL WERE EITHER INNOCUOUS, INCONCLUSIVE OR SPLIT DECISIONS. ON APRIL 1 THE INDODEL BECAME PLENARY CHAIRMAN FOR THE MONTH.

9. NO APPARENT PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE BILATERAL TALKS IN PARIS THIS WEEK AND NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON THE QUESTION OF THE " RETURN" OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES. HOWEVER, THE GVN ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO RELEASE 1193 DETAINEES (671 SECURITY RELATED) IN CONNECTION WITH THE MARCH 26 FARMERS DAY CELEBRATION.

10. MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUES AT A GENERALLY LOW LEVEL BUT WITH LOCAL SHARP CONFLICTS WHICH THREATEN TO LEAD TO AN ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE. IT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY VERY QUIET IN MR'S 1 AND 2 FOR SOME WEEKS. THE ENEMY BUILD- UP IN MR 1 WEST OF HUE, HOWEVER, CONTINUES SERIOUSLY THREATENING. IN

MR 3, VIOLENCE FLARED UP IN A NUMBER OF SPOTS WITH CONTINUING PRESSURE ON THE RANGER CAMP AT TONLE CHAM THE MOST SERIOUS. IF GROUND OPERATIONS ARE MOUNTED TO RELIEVE THE CAMP THIS COULD LEAD TO MAJOR FIGHTING. THE BATTLE FOR THE HONG NGU ENTRY POINT IN MR 4 ONCE AGAIN DOMINATED THE WEEKS EVENTS IN THE DELTA AND THE FIGHTING HERE APPEARS TO BE FAR FROM OVER. THE ARVN FIELD COMMANDERS APPEAR, FOR THE MOST PART, TO BE CONTINUING TO IMPLEMENT PRESIDENT THIEU'S INSTRUCTIONS TO MAINTAIN A DEFENSIVE POSTURE.

11. PRESIDENT THIEU LEFT FOR THE UNITED STATES ON MARCH 31, FOR TWO DAYS OF TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IN SAN CLEMENTE. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE GVN MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE. HIS ITINERARY AFTER SAN CLEMENTE INCLUDES STOPOVERS IN WASHINGTON, ROME LONDON, SEOUL AND TAIPEI.
BENNETT
UNQUOTE RUSH

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